



longbeach toolkit



Long Beach, 1930



Long Beach, 1950



Long Beach, 2004



Long Beach, 2020

The City is creating a new Long Beach General Plan and we invite you to participate. The new General Plan will guide and control changes to the urban fabric of Long Beach for the next 20 years.

This community “**Toolkit**” describes best practice urban policy responses to some of the issues raised in a companion document the Long Beach **Snapshot**. The policy options are necessarily brief and are not intended as an exhaustive list. On page 7 we have identified links and resources to learn more.

We hope that the **Toolkit** helps you to think about your community, your quality of life, and your vision for the future.

Please use the **Toolkit** to inform your active participation in the Long Beach General Plan process.

Where do you want to live & work?

Urban design impacts housing affordability, community spirit, safety, retail success, congestion, pollution, and more. Where do you want to live, shop and work?

❑ Conventional Development (Before)



❑ Best Practice Development (After)



Building Design Best Practices

► Increased Building Articulation

A variety of colors, materials, textures, and roof lines make medium and high density housing more interesting and beautiful.



◄ Garages Behind, Porches in Front.

Front porches provide visual interest, allow for more neighborly interactions, and keep eyes on the street, while so-called “snout garages” in front of the house reduce community interactions and degrade the visual quality of a neighborhood.

► Well Defined Open Space and Landscaping.

Unclaimed open space around multi-tenant buildings and town homes is often unused, un-maintained and feels unsafe. Well-defined semiprivate gardens, central courtyards and play areas are more likely to be used and cared for by tenants.



◄ Building Terracing

Provide transitions between residential and mixed-use development by terracing the building shapes so that residential areas are not impacted by mid-scale projects.

Urban Design Best Practices

Effective planning and urban design can reduce or eliminate many of the ills associated with urban life. By focusing on good urban design, streetscape design and appropriate compatible uses, land use policies influence how we live in and use our environment.

- Simple amenities like community gardens, corner stores, pocket parks, and narrow streets all allow neighbors to get to know each other, create community and reduce crime.
- By mixing housing types in terms of size, affordability and design we can increase housing options and affordability for our changing population.



◀ A Central Focus and Central Amenities

A church, park, neighborhood center, or arts facility becomes a central gathering place for residents to visit and get to know each other.

▶ Mix of Housing Types

A broad variety of housing types, sizes and price levels can bring people of diverse ages, races, and incomes into daily interaction, strengthening the personal and civic bonds essential to our community.



◀ Accessible Open Space

A range of parks, from tot-lots and village greens to ball fields and community gardens, should be distributed within and throughout neighborhoods.



Urban Design Best Practices

► Pedestrian Friendly Design

Pedestrian friendly areas attract people to shopping, streetside cafes, and walking.

► Walkable Destinations

Neighborhoods that include walkable destinations such a corner store, a local park, or a neighborhood school improve our connections to our neighbors and our health.



Pedestrian Friendly
Walkable Destination

► Traffic Calming and Bike-friendly Urban Design.

A landscaped median in a wide street will slow traffic and provide a safe stopping place for pedestrians trying to cross. Curb extensions, small traffic circles, angled parking, and well marked crosswalks all improve pedestrian safety.



Landscaped Median Slows Traffic

► Well Designed Streets

Short blocks, narrow tree-lined streets with on-street perpendicular parking, and wide sidewalks all slow traffic, improve safety, and reduce summer temperatures.



Angled Parking Improves
Pedestrian Friendliness

How do we accommodate Growth?

Most current development practices create sprawl, consume open space and farmland, increase pollution and traffic, lead to isolation, and create a landscape that is dominated and shaped by the private car. A host of new planning strategies including infill and transit-oriented development, mixed-use development, and creating a jobs-housing balance are designed to replace poorly conceived conventional development practices and sooth many of their resulting urban ills.

► **Form-Based Zoning Codes**

Conventional zoning divides a city into zones and designates allowable land uses, heights and setbacks. In contrast, form-based zoning, de-emphasizes land use in favor of urban form and building design. Through a design-focused public participation process, form-based codes result in a more flexible, mixed-use, usable and interesting urban environment.



► **Infill Development**

By redeveloping abandoned or under-utilized urban properties, in-fill projects can revitalize the neighborhood while reducing urban sprawl.



▲ **Transit Oriented Development (TOD)**

TOD provides for higher residential and nonresidential densities, at or near transit stops, stations or transfer nodes. TOD can help revitalize urban centers.

◀ **Mixed-Use & Live-Work Developments**

By mixing retail and small business on the ground floor, with housing and office on the top floors, mixed-use projects can revitalize old commercial areas by making reuse more financially feasible and providing needed housing for the



Assorted Other Tools

► Adaptive Reuse

By encouraging the reuse of existing buildings for new and different uses, we can retain historic value while revitalizing the neighborhood. Adaptive reuse can include transforming an industrial warehouse into artist live/work studios or turning outdated office buildings into apartments or lofts.

► Historic Preservation

Preservation and renewal of historic buildings, districts, and landscapes affirm the continuity and evolution of urban society, while reusing high-quality buildings to serve today's needs.

► The Jobs Housing Balance

By encouraging the development of jobs near where people live, Long Beach can give residents the opportunity to work close to home.

► Density Bonus for Affordable Housing

Many cities provide a density bonus for developers who build 10 to 20 percent affordable units in new housing developments.

► Green Building Practices

The City of Long Beach has recently adopting a green building policy that encourages consideration of the latest proven technologies to improve energy efficiency, water efficiency, indoor air quality, and green materials use in the design and construction of new City projects.



“Growth is inevitable, growth is necessary, but how growth is accommodated can be good or bad. We must focus on practices that are environmentally sound, economically vital, and that encourage livable communities.” Jim Chaffin, Urban Land Institute Chairman

A few Useful Links & Resources

Center for Livable Communities

Website: www.lgc.org/center

The Smart Growth Network

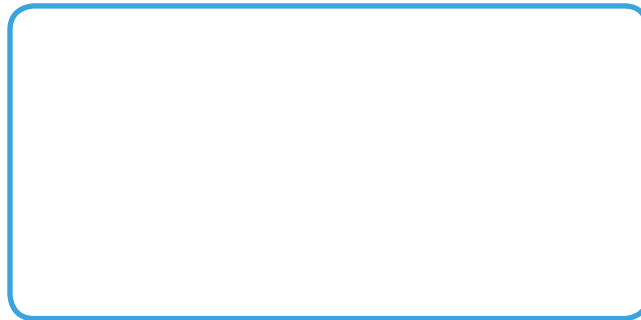
Website: www.smartgrowth.org

American Institute of Architects, Center for Livable Design

Website: www.aia.org/liv_default



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How do I get involved?

- ✓ Check out our website which details lots of information, maps, and a meeting schedule. www.longbeach.gov
- ✓ Send your comments on land use and mobility issues to City Staff.
- ✓ Ask to be notified by email of upcoming community or Citywide meetings on the Long Beach Plan Update
- ✓ Participate in public workshops to get informed, confirm issues, test the vision and land use policy options, and confirm recommendations.



To get involved, contact:

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